



citizens' bulletin

Volume 5

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\$2/yr.

so much right here



Putnam Memorial State Park



Lake Waramaug State Park



Southford Falls State Park

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Welcome to Connecticut State Parks

At this time of year, when summer is on its way, it is appropriate to devote a large part of our June issue to Connecticut's state parks, with the hope that readers will discover some of the less well-known opportunities our parks and forests offer for physical and spiritual refreshment and recreation.

That a state the size of Connecticut (only 5,009 square miles) should devote six percent of its land to parks and forests (191,000 acres) is a tribute to the careful planning of a state park program that is now in its sixty-fifth year -- a program initiated by dedicated conservationists who were determined to preserve the natural beauties of Connecticut for future generations. Two articles in this issue, on pages 5 and 7, will tell you more about these remarkable men.

As a result of their efforts, the state has spent millions of dollars on parks and forests in the intervening 65 years, and is presently spending at an annual rate of approximately \$3,000,000 for operating them. About twelve million people a year take advantage of their various attractions, which range from bathing, picnicking, and hiking to trails for horseback riding, campgrounds, and open spaces ideal for nature appreciation, photography, and even hang-gliding, to name only a few.

In addition to their ability to meet the recreation demands of many kinds of people, the state parks are intended to satisfy, and do satisfy, a basic human need -- namely, the need to get out into the country and enjoy it in its natural splendor. In an era when millions of people work in buildings almost wholly insulated from outdoor air, sunlight, and natural sounds, the easy accessibility of Connecticut parks where these blessings can still be enjoyed is more important than ever.

Connecticut's parks vary dramatically in size, ranging from 1-acre Minnie Island State Park to 2,320-acre Mansfield Hollow State Park. And so varied are the geographical and recreational features of our 45 developed parks (45 others are either awaiting development or have been deliberately left in their natural state) that this issue barely scratches the surface of the subject. Nevertheless, it presents aspects of the park system that will appeal to many interests.

For example, on page 13, you will find an article especially appropriate for June which names the parks where nature-loving couples may hold their wedding ceremonies. On page 11 is an article which lists parks and forests where the handicapped may find enjoyment without leaving the car, or with only a walk of a few feet. On page 10 is an article which explains the benefits of visiting the parks on uncrowded weekdays.

By reading the story on page 13, equestrians will learn where they may keep their mounts with them while camping after a day of riding. Visitors from out of state should benefit from an article on page 10 which explains how Connecticut offers an overnight helping hand to travelers who cannot find a campground while crossing the state. And for lovers of folklore, we have devoted pages 14 and 15 to interesting facts about parks and tales from Colonial times about places where state parks are now located.

We hope every reader will find something in this month's Bulletin that will contribute to a fuller appreciation of, and enjoyment in, the Connecticut state park system. We hope also that this issue will add to your awareness of the fact that our state parks are ecological plusses because they provide a healthy environment not only for plants, animals, birds, fish, and shellfish, but also for the people of Connecticut who have made them possible.

Hats Off To...

John Waters for this month's Bulletin on Connecticut State Parks. He researched and wrote everything in the issue except for Win Carter's "Trailside Botanizing" column -- a major undertaking considering the scope of our park program and its long history.

John is one of 19 Senior Environmental Employees hired by DEP last year under a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare's Administration on Aging. A Glastonbury resident, he has 40 years experience in writing and editing.

Jim Ryan for last month's special issue on Citizen Participation. Space limitations prevented us from giving Jim the credit he deserves for pulling together and presenting in readable fashion a tremendous amount of useful information on how the citizen can participate effectively in environmental decision-making.

An environmental analyst, Jim has worked with DEP's Information and Education Section since October of 1976. He is a resident of East Hartford.

Protection of Natural Environment Key to Park Policy

"Sure, our parks are where people go for recreation," says William F. Miller, Chief of Connecticut's Parks & Recreation Unit, "but they're a lot more than that. Thanks to wise conservation policies established decades before environmental protection became institutionalized, our Connecticut parks are also operated as means of preserving the natural environment of areas in which they were established. The man who expounded the state's original philosophy of parks, Albert M. Turner, used to say: 'We are planning our state parks so far as possible to preserve and display the works of Nature rather than the works of Man. We like to start with the best natural features and keep such work as must be done in harmony with the picture.'"

This explains why, in Connecticut, the parks system comes under the overall management of DEP's Division of Conservation and Preservation. It also explains why Mr. Miller is alert to the need for positive measures when the environment of a park comes under attack either from Man or from Nature. Some recent examples of positive responses to environmental challenges are detailed below.

Saving the Dunes at Hammonasset

At one time, sand dunes were among the most picturesque, and also one of the most environmentally important, features of Hammonasset Beach State Park on Long Island Sound. Then they began to disappear, largely as the result of road construction

to provide two-way traffic and parking near the beach in the early Thirties. This and other construction close to the shoreline destroyed large sections of sand dunes, which had formed natural barriers to protect the beach from wind erosion and storm tides. Then more dunes were destroyed by the terrible hurricane of 1938.

Still later, more dunes were displaced by construction of roads, bathhouses, parking lots, and toilets; and there was considerable damage to the tidal marshes, which formed more than half the park acreage and provided nesting places for waterfowl. Heavy foot traffic and unauthorized driving of motor vehicles across them had also accelerated dune destruction.

In other parts of New England, the long-range result of such attacks has been actual destruction of beaches. On Cape Cod, for instance, the ocean cut inlets through the unprotected beach and finally separated large sections of sand and dunes from the mainland. Drifting and blowing sand filled up salt marshes, thereby upsetting the ecological balance and endangering the shellfish and marine fisheries.

At Hammonasset Beach State Park, destruction did not get that far, but the beach shrank to almost half its width as a result of dune damage. In fact, after a 15-month study, a Wesleyan geologist predicted that, by 2000 A.D., there would be no beach left. While the Parks and Recreation staff didn't agree entirely, it was alarmed by the



Dunes at Hammonasset (DEP Photo/G. Sharp)



increase in damage and in 1971 set out to halt the erosion and take steps to cause the dunes to form again.

Salt-resistant vines, shrubs, and American beach grasses were set out to establish roots that would trap and hold sand in the dunes. In addition, poison ivy proved to be a most effective ally in P & R's campaign. Its growth was not discouraged on the remaining dunes. As a result, there was less walking and lounging, which destroy plants that hold the dunes together.

Parking close to the beach was banned, and an abandoned road nearest the Sound was closed and filled with tree stumps and other fill that would provide stability for the dunes, and soil for further plantings. The height of sand-retaining structures was raised, and stone groins will be enlarged to trap beach sand drifting past them into Clinton Harbor and Tom's Creek.

Today, the dunes are coming back, with beach plums, beach peas, and American beach grass springing up on them. Miller feels that the destruction has been halted and that the future of the beaches at Hammonasset Beach State Park is assured, provided that adequate funds are appropriated by the Legislature to permit the constant protection that is required. The salt marshes and the living creatures in them are safer now that blowing sand has been prevented from destroying them. And while bathers may not like the idea of walking a little farther to get to the beaches, it's still better than having no beaches to get to.

Protecting the Osprey

Ospreys were once abundant along the Connecticut shore, where they could be seen in large nests atop utility poles. In the vicinity of Hammonasset Beach and Rocky Neck

State Parks, they chose to build their nests in the telegraph poles along the railroad line. To keep them from damaging wires and interrupting communications, the railroad systematically tore down their nests to drive them away. This was one reason the state's osprey population declined about 90% between the 1940's and 1977. Another was the widespread use of DDT pesticide in the Forties and Fifties to control mosquitoes. The chemical poisoned the fish the ospreys lived on and made it impossible for the birds' eggs to hatch properly.

To help prevent total destruction of the birds, the Parks and Recreation staff erected tall poles along the salt marshes and topped them with platforms that offered tempting homesites when the ospreys came back from the South at the end of winter. In fact, some of the birds have staked out claims to particular platforms and use them every year. As a result of this activity and the banning of DDT, the osprey population is gradually increasing and may someday return to its previous level.

Conserving Soil at Campsites

Another way in which P & R's policies are conducive to environmental protection involves summer and winter campsites. Uninterrupted use of a campsite and the pressure of foot traffic and vehicles can soon damage the soil by compaction and erosion. Therefore, winter campsites are alternated yearly so they can regain their resilience and retain their vegetation. If possible, they are located on sandy or gravelly soils, which are less prone to damage from pressure. All campsites are barred to the public during the thawing season from March 1 to April 15.



Osprey Landing on Nest at Rocky Neck

First State Park Commission Set Goals in 1914

The notion that Connecticut should acquire land for public parks originated, in 1909, with a group of public-spirited Yankees in Connecticut River towns. Led by Edward Wilkins of Middletown, they proposed legislation that would enable the state to acquire, by lease or option, land along the river "before it is too late;" that is, before it was swallowed up by commercial or industrial users.

In 1913, the legislature created a six-man State Park Commission, with a state forester, and an appropriation of \$20,000 for land and \$5,000 for operations. From the very beginning, these commissioners demonstrated uncannily sound judgment in establishing policies and practices that have endured to this day, almost without change. Four of the commissioners served the state more than 20 years; three, more than 30 years; and one, 34 years.

The commission's January, 1914, meeting endorsed the following statement of park policy:

"The general purpose of the State Park Commission is to secure for the people of the state the title to lands so situated that the right of access and use may be perpetually enjoyed as in the past, and not prevented by the growing hostility to such public use, by private and often alien owners."*

Objectives

Following its statement of purpose, the commission defined objectives as follows:

"A. The specific objectives of the state parks shall be:

- "1. To preserve and make accessible spots of scenic beauty.
- "2. To provide open ground for campers and picnic parties on rivers and lakes, and to secure the shore fronts and beaches for use by the public.

*The "growing hostility" referred to the controversy generated in Westport where the state purchased its first bit of parkland for \$2,489 -- a 5-acre tract of salt marsh that became the nucleus of today's Sherwood Island State Park in Fairfield County. Hostile neighboring landowners erected a fence across the road to the property and took legal action, but their opposition was finally overcome by three private associations interested in encouraging public parks.

"3. To preserve the sites of historic interest, provided the nature of the sites and the historic events associated therewith justify the expenditure.

"B. The principles guiding the selection of sites shall be:

- "1. A large number of comparatively small areas whose special character makes them of unusual value to the public shall be preferred

rather than a smaller number of larger tracts containing possibly a large percent of land of which very little use would ever be made.

- "2. The tracts should be located so as to be accessible to as large a number of people as possible, rather than in unfrequented localities difficult of access. It is not the purpose of the commission to acquire parks in the immediate vicinity of centers of population, since such parks should be owned and managed by the communities whose interests they directly serve. State parks shall be located, as far as possible, to serve the people of the entire state."

A report they filed at the end of their first five years shows how foresighted and practical they were. For example, in that five-year period, they acquired 3,150 acres in 18 towns, of which only 914 acres were purchased, while 2,236 were obtained as gifts from well-to-do families interested in the beauty and openness of Connecticut. Among the gifts was most of the 2,300-acre Macedonia Brook State Park -- one of our largest.

Their report urged the legislature to provide more adequate funding for acquisition and development, saying:

"Because of limited appropriations provided for the acquisition of land, it (the state) has been largely dependent on the generosity of individual citizens for the gifts of suitable tracts or funds for their purchase. Generous-minded citizens will be more inclined to make benefactions if shown that the state is not only in a position to care for them but to fit them into an already established and comprehensive park plan. The expenditure by the state, in the next decade, of four or five million dollars for this purpose would establish for all time that which in the end the public will demand, and the cost of which, if deferred, will grow apace."

An earlier request for a bond issue to finance \$1,150,000 of purchases and \$175,000 for development had been turned down.

Lack of funds for developing the parklands troubled the commissioners because they believed that:

"until the possibilities of state parks are demonstrated to the people of the state, there can be no intelligent public demand for them. We must therefore make some of our acquisitions available for public use at once, in order to demonstrate the practicability of our plans. In fact, a park is not a park until it is used and enjoyed by the people to whom it belongs."

Amazing Growth

Once the parks were opened to the public, growth was fast. In 1919, the state

had 21 parks, and 6,640 people camped or picnicked in them. By 1923, acreage was up to 5,549; development expense was \$11,000; and park users numbered 313,871. By 1938, acreage was 11,735, of which 4,063 had been donated; and attendance was 2,385,517. By the system's fiftieth anniversary in 1963, the state had spent \$3,500,000 for land and had 77 parks.

Today, at an annual expense of \$2,900,000, the state operates 45 developed parks, 45 undeveloped parks, historic sites and open spaces covering 31,000 acres and serving eight million visitors, not counting perhaps four million hikers, horse people, trail-bikers, and nut-gatherers. In addition, it has 30 forests covering 160,000 acres. These statistics are the best evidence available that Connecticut's original park program was soundly conceived, wisely administered, successfully publicized, and enthusiastically accepted by the public!

CCC and WPA Helped Out

During the Great Depression of the Thirties, money was hard to come by, but the Commissioners continued park development by utilizing the services of the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) and the WPA (Works Progress Administration). These were federally funded make-work programs instituted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to keep able-bodied men off the breadlines.

Although much maligned as "leaf-raking" boondoggles, CCC and WPA built Connecticut a pavilion at Rocky Neck State Park, using federal relief funds. They also built the Tower of the Giant at Sleeping Giant Park and did other work at Squantz Pond, Kent Falls, Housatonic Meadows, and Haystack State Parks, and in state forests that later became Chatfield Hollow, Burr Pond, and Day Pond State Parks.



Pavilion at Rocky Neck State Park Built by CCC in 1935

Photo Taken in 1936 by Conn. National Guard

The "Temporary" Employee who Stayed for 28 Years

Elsewhere we mention the remarkable group of men who formed Connecticut's first Park Commission. Quietly but forcefully guiding their thinking and actions was Albert M. Turner, a Yale '90 civil engineer who combined the best features of a spark-plug, a compass, and a crystal ball.

Appointed in 1914 to a temporary job as field secretary to the commission, he retired 28 years later, after having created a park system that was nationally respected. In addition, his ideas had made him a national figure in park planning and an important member of the National Conference on State Parks. Thanks to his vivid writing, his annual reports to the Connecticut Commission are classics of park-management philosophy.

Fling wide the gates!

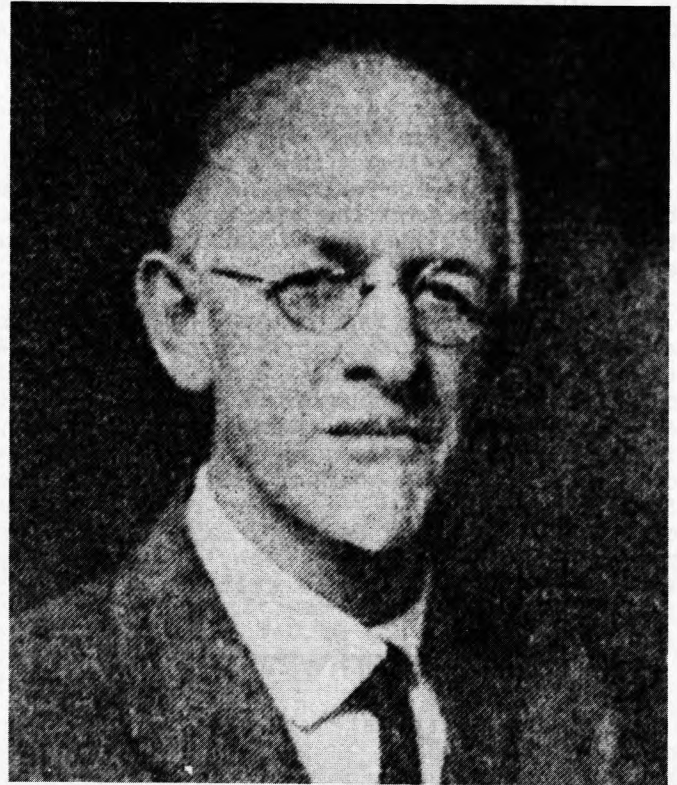
Scarcely had the commission set itself up for operation than World War I broke out, and Connecticut ranked parks low on its priority list. When the war ended in 1918, virtually none of the park sites was open to the public. Turner, believing "a park is not a park until it is used and enjoyed," kept after the commission until it agreed to spend some of its meager budget on making parkland available to the public.

Turner was equally vehement about Connecticut's need for a large state park on the Sound, not merely for bathing and boating, but to preserve the natural beauty of the shoreline and keep it from being swallowed up, defaced, and polluted. Believing the beauty of parklands should be preserved by limiting "improvements" to as few as possible, he opposed leaving the shore to the mercenary mercies of private or municipal amusement parks.

The horrible example he cited to the commission was the Savin Rock Amusement Park, near New Haven, where buildings were so closely spaced that the Sound could not be seen, and where 1,200,000 people had come by trolley car, in 1913, to patronize carnival-type concessions. Turner's comment was:

"The solution of these problems at the shore cannot much longer be left to private enterprise, as in the past. The provision for public comfort which private enterprise has made and will make, world without end, is precisely that which the sheep-herder makes for the comfort of his flocks at shearing time: the less space they have to run about, the easier the process.

"The state park at the shore must care for the multitudes of people, who must have breathing space; and the shore itself must



Albert M. Turner

be preserved essentially untarnished. If the state cannot solve this problem, it will remain unsolved."

Park Names

Turner was so dedicated to the idea of state parks that he even wrote rules for naming them, such as: (1) Avoid family names unless they have historical significance or have become widely established; (2) Give preference to names of natural features appearing on maps in current use, such as Geological Survey's topographical maps; (3) Keep names reasonably short, euphonious, complete, and distinctive without the suffix "Park" or "State Park;" (4) If possible, the name selected at the time of the first acquisition should be sufficiently broad to cover any probably future additions."

Preserving Nature

Behind Turner's zeal for keeping parks unspoiled and as free as possible of extensive roadways and unnecessary buildings was a religious reverence for nature. For example: "The chief aim of the state parks is to maintain and glorify the works of God rather than the works of Man, to the great end that through study and love of His works, Man may come into closer harmony and communion with God."

Characteristically, he epitomized his love of open spaces by prefacing his first

report to the commission with a quotation from Isaiah V, 8:

"Woe unto them that join house to house, That lay field to field, Till there be no place That they may be placed alone In the midst of the earth."

City Parks and Site Selection

Turner was against using state funds to build city parks. "The aim is not to add to the number of city parks, but to satisfy an entirely different but growing need."

As for locating parks in particular areas or with respect to centers of population, his comment was: "Nature has paid scant attention to town and county lines; and with respect to centers of population, they are subject to many changing conditions, and these changes are impossible to foresee... Plainly, for our purposes, the only boundaries to be kept in mind are the natural ones of topography and geology within the limits of the state."

Parkways

Turner anticipated the day when inter-city roads would be "parkways," saying: "We are still distinguishing between highways and parkways, though there is no reason why

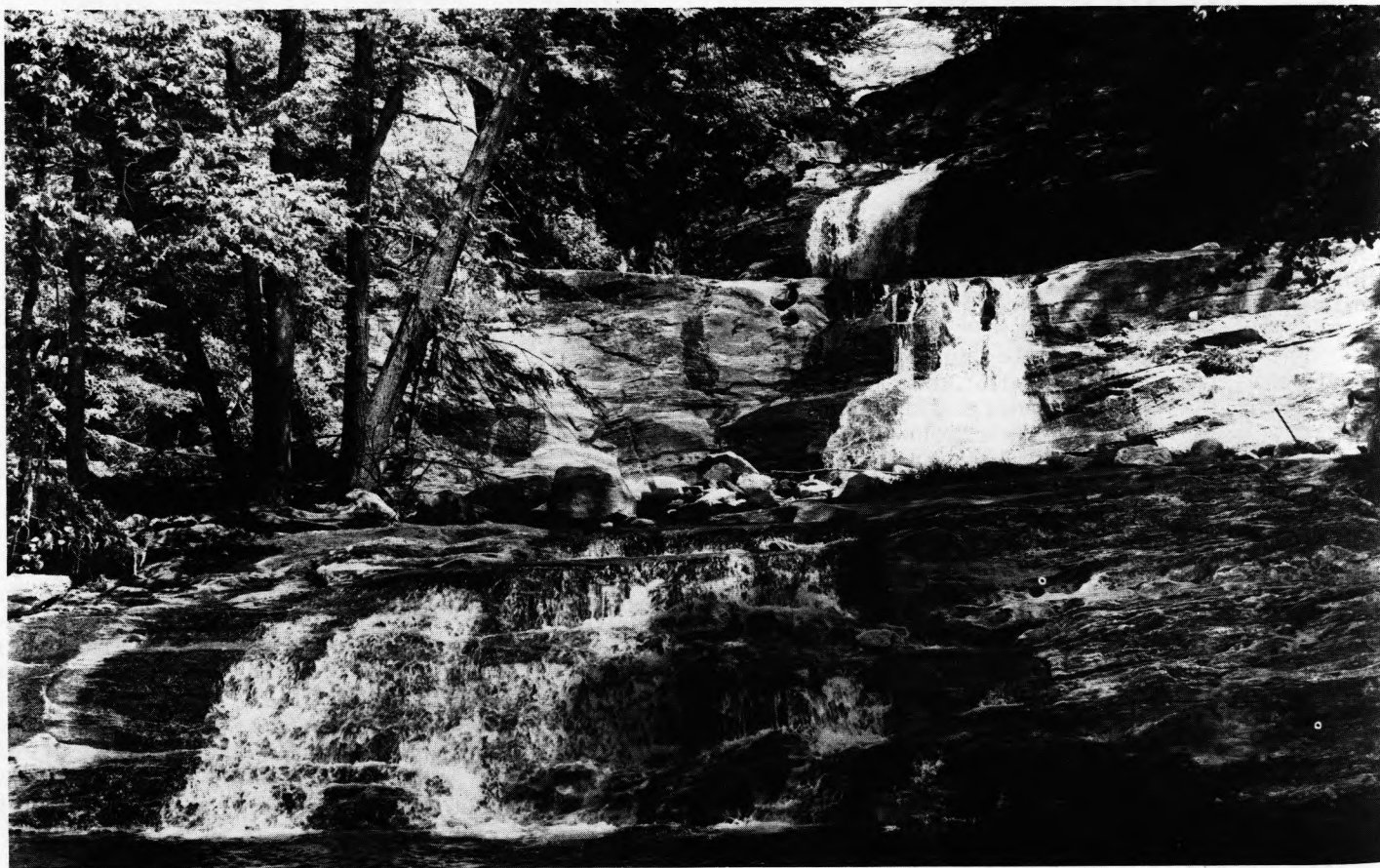
a large percentage of our highways should not become parkways." (1924)

But he was not merely a dreamer. He was a practical Yankee who advised the commission to have the legislature give it the power of eminent domain because "When this power is held, it seldom needs to be exercised; but without it, occasionally owners of small holdings may successfully block the development of important plans." The commission took his advice.

Concerning historical sites for parks, he said: "We can still make history, but it is slow work to make it two hundred years old."

Vox Turner

When Turner spoke, the Commission and the legislature listened because they knew that he knew more about the park situation in general and the Connecticut topography in particular than they did. When he was first employed, he set himself the job of personally inspecting every inch of shoreline between the Rhode Island and the New York borders. Later, he examined inland Connecticut just as thoroughly. He knew what was potentially good parkland and what was not. And having been a civil engineer working on railway lines, he always thought in terms of the accessibility of an area being considered. He was indeed "the Robert Moses of Connecticut."



Kent Falls State Park

CFPA Helps State Acquire Parks and Forests

In this issue of the Bulletin which features our state parks, it is fitting to call attention to the indispensable cooperation that our state parks and recreation staff have received for many years from the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association of East Hartford.

This public-spirited fellowship of conservationists and nature-lovers has for 83 years devoted itself energetically to protecting and increasing the natural beauty of Connecticut. Not lip service, but practical, tangible action has been its guiding principle, as the following examples, selected from among many, will indicate:

Peoples State Forest - This 2,954-acre forest in Barkhamsted is called "Peoples" because most of the money for it came from fairly small donations by a great many individuals and groups. It was the Connecticut Forest and Park Association that sponsored this very successful fund-raising campaign in 1923. After the state bought it, most of the work of developing it was done by the depression-born Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Coincidentally, perhaps, the superintendent of the Camp Walcott CCC unit was none other than Philip Buttrick -- who had been secretary of the CFPA from 1924 to 1929.

Old Furnace State Park - When the land now occupied by this park was up for sale in 1964, the Association took an option on it and held it until the state could get up the money to pay for it.

Haley Farm State Park - When a desirable 260-acre plot in Groton became available, CFPA joined forces with the Connecticut Conservation Association and the Connecticut Nature Conservancy and raised \$50,000 to help the state buy it.

Talcott Mountain State Park - In 1966, to help the state acquire the Heublein Tower and some 300 surrounding acres, CFPA and the Farmington River Watershed Association arranged a public solicitation of funds that produced more than \$200,000.

Gillette Castle State Park - In 1943, Connecticut acquired this park partly as a gift and partly by a purchase arranged by the Association.

Members Donate Individually

Adding to the help given by the Association, many of its members have made handsome individual donations of forest and park lands. Noteworthy examples include:

Osbornedale State Park - The state received this 350-acre park north of Derby, as a gift from a former director of the Association: Frances Osborne Kellogg.

Topsmead State Forest, east of Litchfield, consists of 514 acres with a handsome house, terraces, and gardens. It too was presented to the people of Connecticut by a former director of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association: the late Edith M. Chase of Waterbury.

James L. Goodwin State Forest - This 2,170-acre forest in Hampton includes the 83 acres of the James L. Goodwin Conservation Center. It was donated to the state in 1964 by a man who had served as director and president of the Association for many years.

Great Pond State Forest in Simsbury was also a gift to Connecticut from James L. Goodwin, presented to the state after his death in 1967. It was the first area in the state to be included in the Connecticut Tree Farm System, having been dedicated in 1956. It comprises 281 acres.



Heublein Tower, Talcott Mtn. State Park

DEP Photo/G.Sharp

Incentives Promote Weekday Use of Parks

"Connecticut's investment of time and money in state parks should give people pleasure on weekdays as well as on weekends." That is the Parks & Recreation Unit's philosophy, and the staff has taken several measures to induce special groups, such as senior citizens and others who have free time during the week, to take advantage of the parks on uncrowded weekdays.

For example, 24 of the 45 state parks in operation do not make any charge for 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. parking. Of the parks that do, nine make none on weekdays that are not state or national holidays, although they do charge on weekends and holidays. The nine are Bigelow Hollow State Park in Union, Day Pond State Park in Colchester, Gay City State Park in Hebron, Hopeville Pond State Park in Griswold, Lake Waramaug State Park in Kent, Mashamoquet Brook State Park in Pomfret, Quaddick State Park in Thompson, Sunnybrook State Park in Torrington, and Wadsworth Falls State Park in Middlefield.

In all except Hammonasset Beach, Rocky Neck, Sherwood Island, and Squantz Pond State Parks, parking is free to people who arrive between 8 and 10 a.m. At all parks, there is no charge for parking after 5 p.m.

Transportation

By employing matching funds available under Title XX of the Social Security Act, the state is able to provide transportation to state recreation areas for youths in summer recreation programs.

Organizations wishing to take advantage of this transportation, or others planning to travel in privately chartered buses, may obtain information, reservations, and permits from: DEP Parks and Recreation Unit, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06115. Telephone 566-2304.

Emergency One-Nite Sites Available

You load the camping gear and set out merrily for a distant campground. But thanks to traffic jams or other tribulations, it's long past sunset when you arrive and discover that no campsite is available. So what do you do?

If it's Connecticut you're in, you've found a Good Samaritan, and the story can have a happy ending, because in 15 state parks on or near major highways, the Parks and Recreation staff has provided for emergency overnight camping by out-of-staters who have suitable camping equipment with them.

These sites are available only during the state's regular camping season, April 15 through September 30, subject to the following conditions:

You must pay the regular camping fee for the park you are using, and you will be given a receipt. The fees are listed below.

You will not be accommodated until after dark, but you must arrive before 11:30 p.m., and you must leave the park before 8 o'clock the next morning.

If there is a gate across the park entrance when you arrive, wait there with lights on until the park patrolman completes his rounds and checks you in. Do not raise the gate or remove barricades.

If there is no gate, drive to the nearest open lot and set up camp, but do not park so as to block patrol or emergency vehicles, and do not crowd into obviously congested areas.

The 15 parks where emergency camping is available, their general location, and the camping fees are:

Black Rock State Park in Thomaston. \$3

Burr Pond State Park in Torrington. \$2

Chatfield Hollow State Park in Killingworth. \$2.

Fort Shantok State Park in Montville. \$2

Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison. \$4

Hopeville Pond State Park in Jewett City. \$3

Housatonic Meadows State Park in Cornwall Bridge. \$3

Kent Falls State Park in Kent. \$2

Kettletown State Park in Southbury. \$3

Machamoquet Brook State Park in Pomfret. \$2

Rocky Neck State Park in Niantic. \$4

Sherwood Island State Park in Westport. \$2

Sleeping Giant State Park in Mt. Carmel. \$2

Squantz Pond State Park in New Fairfield. \$2

Wharton Brook State Park in Wallingford. \$2

State Parks Can Be Enjoyed by Handicapped



In the introduction to the Connecticut Forest and Park Association's remarkably useful "Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Guide" is the following statement, which should be welcome news to thousands of nature lovers:

"You may be physically unable to walk very far -- or at all -- or you may want to provide an outing for some such person. There are view points from which you or they can get a broad panorama without having to leave the car, and others that can be reached by a walk of only a few yards from a parking place. Also for such persons, there are lovely drives where you can see the beauty of the woods in laurel stands, fall foliage, and various nearby scenes almost as well from your automobile as you can on foot."

Following is a list of 26 parks and forests where this is possible. For a more detailed description of what is available at each, refer to the book mentioned above. It is available from Connecticut Forest and Park Association, 1010 Main Street, East Hartford, Connecticut. Price is \$3.50. Also refer to free Connecticut Highway Map, available from the following state departments: Environmental Protection, Transportation, and Motor Vehicles; also from Connecticut historical Commission.

Topsmead State Forest - Litchfield
Excellent for observing songbirds.

Chatfield Hollow State Park - Killingworth
Cars can drive through pine groves, then along east branch of Hammonasset River to small pond and picnic area.

Natchaug State Forest - Eastford
Noteworthy Mountain Laurel flowering about second week of June. Miles of surfaced roads.

Nipmuck State Forest - Union
Large Mountain Laurel plantations easily seen from a good road. Picnic areas.

Pachaug State Forest - Voluntown, North Stonington, Griswold

Hardwood and conifer nurseries. Vast beds of seedlings and trees for reforestation are interesting.

Rocky Neck State Park - East Lyme

Very safe beach has gentle slope. Pavilion with fine view of Sound. Refreshments.

Shenipsit State Forest - Somers

Mountain drive on improved roads.

Gillette Castle State Park - East Haddam

Lovely grounds, gorgeous views from park and from Chester-Hadlyme ferry. Interesting museum was famous actor's mansion, open daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., between Memorial and Columbus Days.

Harkness Memorial State Park - Waterford

Formal Italian garden, Oriental garden, handsome mansion, view of Sound. Famous collection of Brasher bird paintings. Camp Harkness, which is part of the estate, also houses more than 200 handicapped people for rehabilitation and recuperation and is administered by the Connecticut Department of Mental Retardation. Included in the facilities is an excellent sandy beach for exclusive use of handicapped persons.

Old Furnace State Park - Killingly

Pleasant picnic grove near entrance.

Dennis Hill State Park - Norfolk

Drive up 1,610-foot Dennis Hill for beautiful panoramic view without leaving car. Impressive foliage. No walking needed.

Dinosaur State Park - Rocky Hill

See dinosaur footprints 200 million years old. Exhibit building open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. from April to November 30. No charge.

Hammonasset Beach State Park - Madison

Two miles of beach. Sand dunes. Pavilion.

Haystack Mountain State Park - Norfolk

Small picnic area along auto road. Attractive pond. Good view of Sound.

Indian Well State Park - Shelton

Falls and ravine near parking lot. See warbler migration. Wildflowers.

Kent Falls State Park - Kent

Drive along Route 7 to park for beautiful scenery. Most spectacular falls in Connecticut.

Kettletown State Park - Southbury and Oxford

View of Lake Zoar on Housatonic River. A road parallels the ravine.



Macedonia Brook State Park - Kent
Wild, rugged beauty. Gorge can be seen from road.

Penwood State Park - Bloomfield
Easy access to woods by car. Picnic areas on western loop of auto road. Good view of Farmington River Valley from points near parking places.

Platt Hill State Park - Winchester
Magnificent view easily reached by car with no walking. Acres of mountain laurel. Historical Red Schoolhouse nearby.

Southford Falls State Park - Oxford
Beautiful waterfall. Covered bridge.

Squantz Pond State Park - New Fairfield
Park is on Squantz Pond, which is part

of Candelwood Lake. Is one of state's most beautiful areas.

Sherwood Island State Park - Westport
One mile beach on Sound. Pavilion and shaded picnic grove adjacent to beach. Connected to mainland.

Cockaponset State Forest - Haddam-Chester Area
Hardtop roads make it easy to see much at this 15,045-acre forest. Beautiful showings of mountain laurel, dogwood, and fall foliage.

Housatonic State Forest - Canaan-Sharon-Cornwall Area
Improved roads through the forest.

People's State Forest - Barkhamstead
Blacktop road with river on one side, woods on other. Beautiful mountain laurel.

Indians Were Great Name Droppers

At least 16 state parks and forests are either named after individual Indians (usually chiefs) or are Indian words for phrases describing some geographical feature of the place so named. For example:

Natchaug -

The land between the rivers. (Natchaug State Forest, Eastford)

Meshomasic -

Rattlesnake. (Meshomasic State Forest, Portland, East Hampton, Glastonbury)

Nehantic -

Point of land on a tidal river. (East Lyme, Lyme, Salem)

Nipmuck -

Fresh (i.e., inland) water. Name of tribe. (Nipmuck State Forest, Union)

Pachaug -

Turning place in the river. (Pachaug State Forest, Voluntown, North Stonington, Griswold, etc.)

Pequot Sepos -

Pequot, a tribal name. Sepos means brook. (Pequot Sepos Wildlife Sanctuary, Mystic)

Cockaponset -

Thought to be Indian chief. (Cockaponset State Forest, Haddam, Chester, etc.)

Housatonic -

Over the mountain. (Housatonic State Forest, Canaan, Sharon, Cornwall)

of Candelwood Lake. Is one of state's most beautiful areas.

Sherwood Island State Park - Westport
One mile beach on Sound. Pavilion and shaded picnic grove adjacent to beach. Connected to mainland.

Cockaponset State Forest - Haddam-Chester Area
Hardtop roads make it easy to see much at this 15,045-acre forest. Beautiful showings of mountain laurel, dogwood, and fall foliage.

Housatonic State Forest - Canaan-Sharon-Cornwall Area
Improved roads through the forest.

People's State Forest - Barkhamstead
Blacktop road with river on one side, woods on other. Beautiful mountain laurel.

Pootatuck -

Country around the falls. (Pootatuck State Forest, New Fairfield)

Tunxis -

Big bend in river. Name of tribe. (Tunxis State Forest, Hartland, Barkhamstead)

Wyantenock -

Where the water whirls, or where the river winds about the hill. (Wyantenock State Forest, Warren, Kent)

Paugnut -

Name of last Indian of his tribe in the region of Paugnut State Forest near Torrington.

Paugusset -

Where the river widens. Name of tribe. (Paugusset State Forest, Newtown)

Waramaug -

Name of sachem, father of Princess Lillinonah, killed in lover's leap over falls in Housatonic. (Lake Waramaug State Park, Kent)

Squantz -

Chief of Pootatuck tribe. (Squantz Pond State Park, New Fairfield)

Massacoe -

Great brook's mouth; i.e., where Stratton Brook joins Farmington River. (Stratton Brook State Park, Simsbury)

DEP Citizens' Bulletin Supplement

Permits Issued

Public Hearings

Hudson River Basin Plan

A public hearing will be held to discuss and hear comments on the Hudson River Basin Plan, phase II. The plan examines the water quality problems of the Basin and contains recommendations to protect existing water quality. The Hudson River Basin includes land area within the Towns of Ridgefield, New Fairfield, Sherman and the City of Danbury.

Hearing Date: July 18, 1978
Time: 7:30 P.M.
Place: New Fairfield,
Public Library
Address: Route 39 (Corner of
Rt. 37 next to Town
Hall)

The hearing record will be open for 30 days after the date of the hearing.

Limited copies of the proposed plan are available and can be obtained by contacting Sidat Balgobin, DEP Water Compliance Unit, State Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut 06115. Telephone 566-2588.

Coming Events

Annual Plant Science Day

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Farm in Mt. Carmel will be open to visitors August 9, 1978 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be short talks by station staff and displays on agricultural, natural resources and food research. Experimental plots will be open to visitors and station scientists will be available to answer questions about their research and about problems with plants, soil or insects. The main speaker for the day will be Dr. Leon Martel of the Hudson Institute in Croton-on-Hudson, New York.

To receive a detailed program and a map showing how to get to the farm, write to: Plant Science Day, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, P.O. Box 1106, New Haven, Ct. 06504.

There is no admission charge and plenty of free parking.

Air Compliance

February 23
Halmark Cards, Inc.
Permit to operate an incinerator in the Town of Enfield.

March 1
P.R. Mallory and Company, Inc.
Permit to operate a boiler in the City of Waterbury.

March 1
Combustion Engineering Inc.
Permit to operate a coal gasifier in the Town of Windsor.

March 1
P.R. Mallory and Company, Inc.
Permit to construct a boiler in the City of Waterbury.

March 10
Dexter Corporation
Permit to construct gas-fired dryers in the Town of Windsor Locks.

March 10
Dexter Corporation
Permit to construct a paper machine in the Town of Windsor Locks.

March 15
The Torrington Company
Permit to construct a metal cleaning line in the Town of Torrington

Water Compliance

April 26
Fafnir Bearing Company
Permit, with conditions, to discharge treated black oxide wastewaters and oil bearing wastewaters to the Connecticut River Watershed in the Town of Newington.

April 26
Fenn Construction Company
Permit, with conditions, to discharge treated domestic sewage to the Pomperaug River Watershed in the Town of Southbury at Long Ridge Estates Lots No. 12, 18, 47, 48.

April 26
Mr. Robert Flaherty
Permit, with conditions, to discharge 500 gallons per day of treated domestic sewage to the Pomperaug River Watershed in the Town of Southbury at Long Ridge Estates Lot No. 41.

April 26
Kell Strom Tool Company, Inc.
Permit, with conditions, to discharge treated cleaning and black oxide rinse-water to the Connecticut River Watershed in the Town of Wethersfield.

May 11
MacDermid, Inc.
Permit, with conditions, to discharge non-contact cooling water to the Naugatuck River Watershed in the City of Waterbury.

May 15
Forestville Industrial Plating Company
Permit, with conditions, to discharge treated metal finishing wastewater to the Quinnipiac River Watershed in the Town of Southington.

Water Resources

Inland Wetlands

May 1
Town of Bolton, No. 78-IW-191
Permit, with conditions, to conduct a regulated activity within inland wetlands and watercourses in the Town of Bolton. The proposed work consists of developing Indian Notch Park including ball fields, roadways, beach enlargement, bath house and other facilities east of Bolton Lake and west of Tolland Road.

May 1
Robert Kopnick, No. 78-IW-192
Permit, with conditions, to conduct a regulated activity within inland wetlands and watercourses in the Town of New Milford. The proposed work consists of the construction of an 11 lot subdivision known as Horizon Heights Section B located North of Halletts Road and Ridge Road.

May 1
County Investors, Inc.
Permit, with conditions, to conduct a regulated activity within inland wetlands and watercourses in the Town of Milford. The proposed work consists of the culverting of the two intermittent watercourses and the addition of fill to the associated wetlands south of the Milford-Orange town-line and southeast of Route I-95 off of Marsh Hill Road.

May 5
East Village Associates, Inc.
Permit, with conditions, to conduct a regulated activity, within inland wetlands and watercourses in the Town of Monroe. The proposed work consists of the construction of roads and associated drainage and portions of a golf course within approximately 14 acres of a inland wetlands and associated watercourses.

May 10
Gerald W. Dabbs, No. 78-IW-196
Permit, with conditions, to conduct a regulated activity within inland wetlands and watercourses in the Town of Wallingford. The proposed work consists of construction of drainage pipes off Kish Place and off One Drive to drain stormwater into a watercourse.

May 16
Connecticut Department of Transportation
Permit, with conditions, to conduct a regulated activity within inland wetlands and watercourses in the Town of Windsor. The proposed work consists of the installation of a metal pipe arch culvert under Palisade Avenue to supplement an existing 48 inch box culvert.

May 16
J. & D. Kasper & Associates
Permit, with conditions, to conduct a regulated activity within inland wetlands and watercourses in the Town of Monroe. The proposed work consists of constructing southern extensions of Lanthorne Road and Moss Road including the installation of culverts for stormwater drainage and driveway crossings in association with a proposed 6 lot subdivision. Regulated activities include placing approximately 200 cubic yards of fill on wetland soils and discharging stormwater drainage into wetlands and associated watercourses.

May 19
DEP Conservation & Preservation Division, No. SD-78132
Permit, with conditions, to dredge an irregular shaped navigation channel across a bar in the Connecticut River located off the State boat launching area under the Baldwin Bridge at Old Saybrook. Approximately 2,000 cubic yards of mud will be dredged and disposed of at the Cornfield Shoals Extension dredged material disposal area in Long Island Sound.

May 23
Stafford Johnson, No. SD-78112
Permit, with conditions, to construct and maintain a wood dock approximately 3'6" x 96' supported on pipe frames, a ramp approximately 3'6" x 6', and a floating dock approximately 10' x 20' in Hamburg Cove at Lyme.

May 23
Stannard Beach Association, No. SD-78105
Permit, with conditions, to install and maintain 100' timber groin and a 100' timber jetty on Stannard Beach at Westbrook.

May 26
Brownie Plesz
Permit, with conditions, to conduct a regulated activity within inland wetlands and watercourses in the Town of Columbia. The proposed work consists of constructing three driveways across an inland wetland and pipe approximately 148' of the associated unnamed watercourse with a 24" concrete culvert.

May 26
J. & D. Kasper & Associates
Permit, with conditions, to conduct a regulated activity within inland wetlands and watercourses in the Town of Monroe. The proposed work consists of culverting a branch of the Copper Mill Brook for a road crossing and the filling of approximately 0.4 acres of inland wetlands south of Blake Road and east of Lynn Drive.

Five Parks Offer Sites for Weddings

In this era of innovative wedding ceremonies, it is surprising to learn that one of the most unusual was performed about 300 years ago by the sixth colonial governor of Connecticut in what is now Rocky Neck State Park in East Lyme.

The governor was John Winthrop, whose jurisdiction extended as far as -- but no farther than -- one bank of what is now Bride Brook in the park. The loving couple presumably lived on the out-of-bounds side. But this did not daunt the remarkable man who was to occupy the governor's chair for 18 years (still an all-time record).

Winthrop stood on his side; the betrothed stood on theirs; and Winthrop reached across the brook, said the necessary words, and sped them on their way as man and wife. (To this day, schools of fish called "alewives" swim into Bride Brook every spring en route to spawning grounds. How the word gets around!)

Because the idea of getting married in picturesque surroundings still appeals to couples, the Parks and Recreation staff receives a steady stream of requests for permission to marry in one park or another. Unfortunately, because the wedding activities would interfere with normal use of many of the parks, it has been necessary to limit ceremonies to five parks where this would not be a problem. (Rocky Neck State Park is not one of them.) They are:

1. James L. Goodwin Conservation Center in Hampton. This 83-acre enclave in the 2,170-acre Goodwin State Forest offers several locations suitable for ceremonies, depending on the size of the wedding party and attendance. The setting is beautiful in spring when the apple blossoms are out, making it ideal for picture-taking as well as for the ceremony itself. There is also a flower garden as an attractive back-

ground. In hot weather, there is a shady pine plantation with a pathway through it. This is also a favorite location for couples who favor back-to-nature setting. There is also a mowed field almost surrounded by conifers near the parking lot above Pine Acres Lake.

2. Shenipsit State Forest in Somers. The Soapstone Mountain area, which is on the road to the Somers fire tower, and which is used every year for Easter sunrise services, provides a striking view of the valleys in the Somers region. The road is not plowed in winter, so use of the site is limited to the other seasons.
3. Osbornedale State Park near Derby. This park is well-liked by winter sports enthusiasts and conservationists. Its knolls provide wide vistas of surrounding towns and countryside. The upper pavilion area is the best location.
4. Mohawk Forest near Goshen and Cornwall. This 3,505-acre forest includes Mohawk Mountain, from which the Catskills are visible on a clear day. Weddings may be performed at the Old Tower area.
5. Great Pond Forest in Simsbury provides an outdoor chapel with a stone lectern in a forest of 280 acres. This area is known as the Chapel in the Pines.

Permits

Couples considering marriage in a state park may obtain further information and permission from the Department of Environmental Protection's Parks and Recreation Unit, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, 06115; Phone 566-2304.

Horses Allowed Overnight in Two Areas

Connecticut provides 1,500 campsites in 13 parks and three forests. Pets are not allowed in most of them. But in two new ones, it is now possible for riders to camp and keep their horses with them.

The state opened its first horse camp in the summer of 1977. It is the Frog Hollow Horse Camp Area of Pachaug State Forest, near Voluntown, close to the Rhode Island border. It provides 20 campsites and has long been a favorite with horsemen because of its trail rides along the Nehantic, Narragansett, Pachaug, Quinnebaug, and Castle Trails.

New in 1978 is the Natchaug State Forest Horse Camp, with 28 campsites, near Phoenixville in the northeastern corner of the state.

Campsites at either forest cost \$3 a night and should be reserved in advance at the Region IV office of the Department of Environmental Protection in Voluntown, 06384. Phone is 1-376-2513. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The camping season is April 15 through September 30, with no off-season camping allowed. The minimum camping period is two days; the maximum, 14. In general, the rules set forth in the leaflet "Camping in Connecticut" apply to horse camps. A free copy may be obtained from the DEP Information & Education office at 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06115, Phone 1-566-5599.

Facts and Legends about Connecticut's State Parks

Connecticut's largest state park is 2,320 times larger than its smallest. Largest is 2,320-acre Mansfield Hollow Park in Mansfield. Smallest is one-acre Minnie (not Mini) Island Park on Gardner Lake in Salem, an undeveloped park whose name comes not from its lack of size, but from the name of an early settler's wife. The island almost slipped through the state's fingers when a squatter nearly succeeded in establishing squatter's rights to it by living on it seven years, there being no previous title to it on record. Luckily, somebody tipped off the state in the nick of time, and the legislature rushed through a bill declaring Minnie to be public property.

* * *

Above All State Park in Warren isn't. One acre of Mt. Riga State Park in Salisbury is at the top of Bear Mountain, which is the highest peak in the state.

* * *

How many states can claim the distinction of having not one, but two, Mt. Toms? And not only that, but of having a Mt. Tom that's 125 feet higher than much-touted Mt. Tom in the contiguous Commonwealth of Massachusetts! One of our Mt. Toms is, strangely enough, in Mt. Tom State Park in Litchfield and Washington. That's the one that quite rightly looks down on the Bay State Mt. Tom. Our other Mt. Tom is near Moodus, but it isn't in a park. After all, how many Mt. Tom Parks can one have without seeming ostentatious?

* * *

One of the most exclusive cemeteries in the state is at Fort Shantok State Park in Montville. It is an "Indians Only" burial ground, neatly fenced with wooden palisades and limited to occupants who had Indian blood in their veins. In it is a monument to an Englishman who smuggled food to the Mohegan tribe when it was being besieged by hostile Narragansetts. Some of the headstones are of fairly recent date. Older stones are indecipherable.

* * *

What other park in the world can boast that, on its site, once stood the very first condensed milk factory in the world? None! That lactary honor belongs to delightful Burr Pond State Park in Torrington, where Gail Borden built his first condensed milk factory in 1854. Truly a park flowing with (condensed) milk and honey!

* * *

Willful women turn up in every century. Molly Barber of Wethersfield, for instance. Back in the early days of Connecticut, when Molly's parents vetoed the man she wanted to marry, she stormed out of the house, vowing she'd marry the first man she saw.

* * *

According to a charming legend in the "Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Guide," (published by Connecticut Forest and Park Association) the first man (read victim) happened to be an Indian named Changan, who was walking along minding his own business, little knowing the doom in store for him.

Just how Molly propositioned Poor Chang, and who performed the ceremony, are unknown. But the Odd Couple built a cabin in what is now the 2,954-acre People's State Forest in Barkhamsted. The site of their little love nest is now marked with a bronze plaque. The plaque explains that the cabin became known to night-shift drivers of the AlbanyHartford stagecoach as "The Barkhamsted Lighthouse," its light indicating that New Hartford was only five miles away.

Moral: Smart Indians eschew Wethersfield.

* * *

What is called the Squaw's Cave in Bolton Notch State Park in Bolton is the locale of a cautionary legend for supporters of Blue Laws repeal. The squaw involved had an industrious Dutch husband who was seen chopping wood on the Sabbath. He and his squaw fled to the cave, which obviously did not bear her name in those days. But to no avail. The blue-nosed, Blue Laws officials -- who were all for the work ethic, but never on Sunday--tracked them down and put the Dutchman to death.

* * *

Early settlers who liked a little butter with their bread were not amused by the pranks of two mischievous witches named Goody Wee, the mother, and Betty Wee, the daughter, who lived in a hollow at what is now Chatfield Hollow State Park in Killingworth. These fun-loving nuisances took particular delight in entering cream to prevent its being churned into butter. They also made pests of themselves in other unfunny ways. No one knows when they finally disappeared; but there have been no butter problems lately, except price.

* * *

The contour of hills in Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden suggests a superhuman reclining figure. Indians said it was a

spirit named Habbamock, who had been cast under a spell and condemned to eternal sleep because he had diverted the waters of the Connecticut River. This explanation poses a real puzzle to students of Indian life -- because only in fairly recent years did geologists discover that the river actually had been diverted in some way in the distant past. The puzzle is: how did the Indians who thought up the story know about the diversion? And when did they know it?

* * *

Back in the Merry Oldsmobile days, when the superhighway between New Haven and Hartford, via Wallingford, was just a plain dirt road, Wharton Brook State Park, on Route 5, was one of the most popular in Connecticut. Part of its popularity stemmed from the fact that it possessed the only gas station between the two cities. The station could also provide service of sorts, while passengers and driver picnicked beside a pleasant stream in a quiet woodland. Designated "a travelers' wayside park," it was really the granddaddy of the many picnic areas so familiar along Connecticut highways. Today, its main attraction is its swimming area.

* * *

At one time, when what is now Gay City State Park was actually a community, members of the Gay family, who comprised most of its population, set about building a woolen mill. Oxen hauled stones weighing up to a ton for the foundation and for building a dam and canal for water power. The canal was 10 feet deep at the dam end and ran a quarter of a mile along the side of a hill and up a slight incline. Although jobs were not overly plentiful in such a tiny community, one of the workmen suddenly quit his job and refused to come back. Upon investigation, it was found that he wanted nothing to do with any project where "they were making water flow uphill." It smacked of witchcraft, and he wasn't having any part of it. Nevertheless, the mill was quite successful as long as it could obtain wool from neighboring farmers, but it failed as a result of British blockades during the War of 1812. Ultimately, the community ceased to exist.

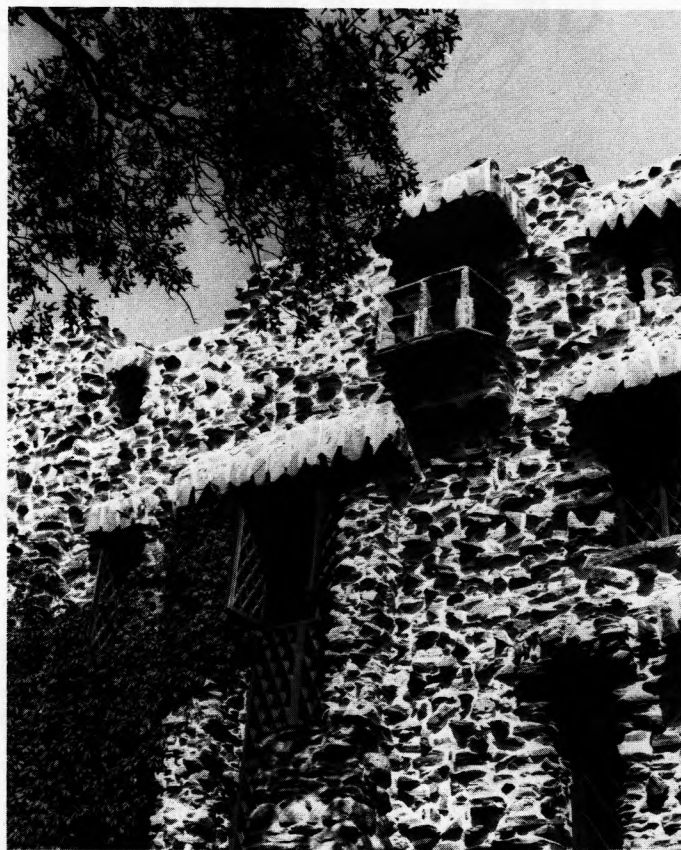
* * *

"The Seventh Sister" is the original name of what is now called Gillette Castle, the 24-room medieval mansion that is the nucleus of 184-acre Gillette Castle State Park in East Haddam. The famous but eccentric actor, William Gillette, who personally designed it and had it built on the heights above the Chester-Hadlyme ferry, named it after the southernmost hill of a chain known as the Seven Sisters.

The castle is full of odd features. For example, the mansion has 47 doors, but no two are alike. Light-switches and door latches are hand-carved wood. Couches are

built in, but there is a movable table that runs on tracks. Gillette was so pleased with his creation that his will ordered executors to make sure his property did not "fall into the hands of some blithering saphead who has no conception of where he is or with what he is surrounded."

Gillette, a descendant of one of the founders of Hartford, went to Trinity, Yale, Harvard, M.I.T. and the College of the City of New York, without bothering to graduate from any of them. Instead, he became an actor, creating the role of Sherlock Holmes in America. It made him famous and rich, and he used his wealth to create the fabulous castle that so many people have enjoyed visiting.



Gillette Castle Exterior Wall Detail Dept. of Commerce Photo

DEP Citizens' Bulletin

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Trailside Botanizing

by G. Winston Carter



Wild Geranium
(Geranium maculatum)

One of the lovelier flowers that blossom in the early summer is Cranesbill or Wild Geranium. These rose-pink to magenta flowers are most striking when seen in clusters rather than singly, because there are so few flowers on each plant.

You can often find them in great numbers scattered over shady hillsides and roadsides, in the same type of habitat as Jack-in-the-Pulpit. There are nearly 200 known species of geranium with a large percentage of them found in North America.

Pollination of this plant and eventual dispersement of its seeds is a fascinating aspect of this flower. Its flowering time is usually from April through July. Pollination is then effected by bees and a certain type of fly.

Self-pollination is rather uncommon because the stamens mature much earlier than the pistil. However, there are exceptions to this. On occasion when no foreign pollen is brought to the plant it manages to summon up a few remaining pollen grains from its withered stamens, and the stigma becomes self-pollinated.

Following pollination the showy parts of the flower soon drop off, while the style grows longer and thicker. The uncommon beak-like fruit which develops gives the plant both its popular and scientific name, as geranium is taken from the Greek word for crane. The species name, "maculatum," refers to the somewhat spotted appearance of the older leaves.

Five seeds ripen for a few weeks in the five-capsuled ovary at the base of the long beak. At the appropriate time, the beak and capsule split apart and the seeds are propelled in an explosive fashion to form the new geranium for the next year.

DEP citizens' bulletin

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Commissioner: Stanley J. Pac
Director Info & Ed: Greg Sharp
Layout: Rosemary Gutbrod
Typist: Linda Mrowka
Phone: 566-5524

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